

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 254350
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH:FLW

APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH

S/S - TGMARTIN

EA - MR. GLEYSTEN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

S, D, P, EA, L, NSC, JUSTICE

-----101074 221415Z /40

P 220231Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 254350

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: ROKG COOPERATION WITH INVESTIGATIONS

1. ROK EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR PAK CALLED ON KOREA AFFAIRS DIRECTOR RICH OCTOBER 21 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE FUTURE ROKG COOPERATION WITH INVESTIGATIONS IN AFTERMATH OF BREAK-DOWN OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TALKS IN SEOUL. ROK EMBASSY SOUGHT COMMENT ON REASON FOR USG INSISTENCE THAT TONGSUN PARK BE INTERVIEWED ONLY IN U.S. EMBASSY SEOUL REGARDING HIS WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL TO A THIRD COUNTRY FOR TESTIMONY. ROK EMBASSY IS SEEKING TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SEOUL AS TO HOW FURTHER COOPERATION COULD BE BEST EFFECTED WITH U.S. INVESTIGATIONS.

2. RICH INFORMED PAK THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 254350

EMBASSY UNTIL THERE COULD BE FULL CONSULTATION WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO HAD CONDUCTED DISCUSSIONS IN SEOUL. RICH REMINDED COUNSELOR PAK OF REQUIREMENT IN THE LAW THAT USG REPORT TO THE CONGRESS BY NOVEMBER 4 REGARDING ROKG COOPERATION WITH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATIONS, HOWEVER, AND SHORT DEADLINE WHICH THEREFORE REMAINED IF POSITIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE COOPERATION WERE TO BE DEMONSTRATED

PRIOR TO FIRST REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.

3. RICH STATED FORCEFULLY THAT, ALTHOUGH ROKG HAD SHOWN SOME EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE FRINGES OF THE PROBLEM IN RELATION TO BANK SUBPOENAS, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS, ETC., NONE OF THIS ADDRESSED THE FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT TO COOPERATION WHICH WAS REQUIRED. RICH NOTED THE REPEATED WARNINGS TO AMBASSADOR KIM IN THE PAST THAT THE USG HAD SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD IN DUE COURSE COME OUT, AND THAT SOME OF THIS WAS NOW BEING DEMONSTRATED IN THE CURRENT HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE HEARINGS. IN SUCH A SITUATION IT SHOULD BE PLAIN TO ROKG THAT MINOR DAMAGE LIMITING EXERCISES WERE INSUFFICIENT AND UNRESPONSIVE TO THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM. ONLY A FUNDAMENTAL DECISION TO CUT LOOSE FROM THAT PAST THROUGH ACTIVE COOPERATION TO BRING FULL TESTIMONY TO BEAR ON THE IMPROPER ACTIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE VIS-A-VIS AMERICAN POLITICAL FIGURES WOULD HAVE THE CHANCE OF SALVAGING SOMETHING POSITIVE OUT OF THIS EPISODE. UNDERSTANDABLY, SUCH A DECISION COULD PROBABLY BE MADE ONLY BY PRESIDENT PARK, BUT TO SUPPLY FULL COOPERATION AT THIS STAGE COULD OFFER PROSPECT OF POSITIVE UNDERSTANDING AND NEW FRESH BEGINNING IN OUR RELATIONS.

3. COUNSELOR PAK STATED THAT FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF CURRENT ROUND OF HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 254350

OPPORTUNITY FOR STATE AND JUSTICE TO CONSULT ON RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN SEOUL, AMBASSADOR KIM WOULD WISH TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS CONSULTATION NEXT WEEK WITH DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS FURTHER COOPERATION. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, INVESTIGATIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE254350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRICH:FLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770389-0852
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771029/aaaaayjz.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0988db28-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 814134
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROKG COOPERATION WITH INVESTIGATIONS
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0988db28-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009